

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 308

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 12086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BENC, SG, IR

SUBJ: PORT SEDAR

REF: (A) STATE 294497, (B) TEHRAN 6485

1. MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE ANSARY TOLD ME ON DECEMBER 5 THAT IRAN WAS STILL INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH PORT SEDAR BUT THAT IT WANTED TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FINANCING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE. PUT ANOTHER WAY, UNLESS THE GOS CAN RAISE THE MONEY TO FINANCE THE SUPER-STRUCTURE, THE GOI WILL NOT WANT TO PURSUE ANY OF THE PROJECTS SUCH AS PHOSPHATES, ETC.

2. ANSARY TOLD ME THAT DAVID MORSE HAD BEEN IN TEHRAN LAST WEEK AND THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, AND PLANNING MINISTER MAJIDI, ANSARY HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH HIM. UPSHOT OF MORSE'S TRIP HERE APPEARS TO BE THAT ANSARY'S BROTHER, CYRUS ANSARY, WHO LIVES IN WASHINGTON, HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO GET TOGETHER WITH MORSE AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE FINANCING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS VIABLE. WE SEEM TO HAVE A CHICKEN AND EGG SITUATION HERE WITH THE GOI UNWILLING TO MOVE UNTIL THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITMENT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.

3. IT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO PLUMB EXACT EXTENT OF
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IRANIAN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. ANSARY ALLUDED TO

CERTAIN POLITICAL OVERTONES INVOLVING THE EMPRESS'
VISIT TO DAKAR WHICH MADE IT SOUND AS THOUGH HE WAS NOT
MUCH INTERESTED FROM AN ECONOMIC STANDPOINT. ON THE
OTHER HAND, IT IS EASY TO READ TOO MUCH INTO SUCH AN
OFF-HAND COMMENT SINCE IN THE END A DECISION WILL HAVE
TO BE MADE BY THE HIH ECONOMIC COUNCIL, NOT ANSARY ALONE.

4. WE STILL ARE WORKING IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
ON IRASENCO MEETING, AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR ATTEMPTS
TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON IRANIAN POSITION
REGARDING PROJECT.
HELMS

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